

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**In the Claims:**

Claims 1 and 2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim-2 24, further comprising collecting a payment from the ~~user~~player prior to the step of automatically indicating the predicted results to the ~~user~~player.

Claims 4 through 6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim-2 24, wherein the time sequentially ordered events occur in the ~~user~~player playing of one or more games of chance.

8. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 24-4, further comprising providing the account to the ~~user~~player by an operator of the one or more games of chance, and permitting the ~~user~~player to withdraw the ~~second amount~~actual winnings from the account after the minimum number of events have occurred.

9. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the one or more games of chance are provided by an operator of a casino and the ~~user~~player is a player with respect to the casino.

10. (original) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the one or more games of chance are played on a slot machine of the casino.

11. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the number of the plurality of events is selected by the player~~user~~ and the amount of the payment collected from the player~~user~~ varies according to the selected number of events.

12.(currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 24-4, wherein the predicted first through nth results are indicated graphically to the user-player.

Claims 13 and 14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 26-24, wherein the system is further operable, upon crediting the account, to decrease a probability that the predetermined outcome will occur per each individual event until at least the actual outcomes of the minimum number of events have been determined.

16. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 26-24, wherein the system is further operable to provide the account to the user-player from an operator of one or more games of chance, and permit the user-player to withdraw the ~~second amount~~ actual winnings from the account after the actual outcomes of the minimum number of events have been determined.

17. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 16 wherein the device includes a slot machine.

Claims 18 and 19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) The recording medium as claimed in claim 27-23, wherein said method further comprises decreasing a probability of the occurrence of the predetermined outcome per each individual event until the actual outcomes of at least the minimum number of events have been determined.

Claim 21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 24-26, wherein the device

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includes a computing device, a server or a slot machine.

Claim 23. (cancelled)

24. (new) A method, comprising:

(a) displaying a plurality of sequentially ordered events by a machine and permitting a player to select a range including a fewer number of the sequentially ordered events from among the displayed plurality of sequentially ordered events, for each event of which an outcome is determined at least partly by chance and is as yet not known to the player;

(b) prior to determining actual outcomes of the events, simulating the outcomes of each of the sequentially ordered events in the range by the machine based on a probability that a predetermined outcome will occur and automatically indicating by the machine to the player predicted winnings based on a (j) first ( $i=1$ )th predicted result of simulating the outcome of a first ( $i=1$ )th one of the events, and, (jj) for each of the plurality of events from a second ( $i=2$ )th event to an nth ( $i=n$ ) event, an ith predicted result of simulating the outcome of an ith event accumulated with the ( $i-1$ )th result, wherein the ( $i-1$ )th result simulates the outcome of an ( $i-1$ )th event accumulated with any ( $i-2$ )th result, if any ( $i-2$ )th result exists;

(c) permitting the player to select one of the predicted results from among the predicted first through nth results indicated by the machine;

(d) indicating by the machine that an account is credited for the player with predicted winnings according to the player-selected predicted result;

(e) permitting the player by the machine to utilize the predicted winnings to determine actual outcomes of at least some of the events and adjusting an amount in the account based on the actual outcomes; and

(f) after the actual outcomes of a minimum number of the events have been determined, permitting the player by the machine to retain the adjusted amount in the account as actual winnings.

25. (new) The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein step (f) includes decreasing a probability that the predetermined outcome will occur per each individual event until the actual outcomes of at least a minimum number of the events have been determined.

26. (new) A machine operable to perform a method, the method including the steps of:

(a) displaying a plurality of sequentially ordered events by the machine and permitting a player to select a range including a fewer number of the sequentially ordered events from among the displayed plurality of sequentially ordered events, for each event of which an outcome is determined at least partly by chance and is as yet not known to the player;

(b) prior to determining actual outcomes of the events, simulating the outcomes of each of the sequentially ordered events in the range by the machine based on a probability that a predetermined outcome will occur and automatically indicating by the machine to the player predicted winnings based on a (j) first ( $i=1$ )th predicted result of simulating the outcome of a first ( $i=1$ )th one of the events, and, (jj) for each of the plurality of events from a second ( $i=2$ )th event to an nth ( $i=n$ ) event, an ith predicted result of simulating the

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outcome of an  $i$ th event accumulated with the  $(i-1)$ th result, wherein the  $(i-1)$ th result simulates the outcome of an  $(i-1)$ th event accumulated with any  $(i-2)$ th result, if any  $(i-2)$ th result exists;

(c) permitting the player to select one of the predicted results from among the predicted first through  $n$ th results indicated by the machine;

(d) indicating by the machine that an account is credited for the player with predicted winnings according to the player-selected predicted result;

(e) permitting the player to utilize the predicted winnings in exchange for determining actual outcomes of at least some of the events and adjusting an amount in the account based on the actual outcomes; and

(f) after the actual outcomes of a minimum number of the events have been determined, permitting the player to retain the adjusted amount in the account as actual winnings.

27. (new) A recording medium having computer-readable instructions recorded thereon, the instructions being executable by machine to perform a method including the steps of::

(a) displaying a plurality of sequentially ordered events by a machine and permitting a player to select a range including a fewer number of the sequentially ordered events from among the displayed plurality of sequentially ordered events, for each event of which an outcome is determined at least partly by chance and is as yet not known to the player;

(b) prior to determining actual outcomes of the events, simulating the outcomes of each of the sequentially ordered events in the range by the machine based on a probability

that a predetermined outcome will occur and automatically indicating by the machine to the player predicted winnings based on a (j) first ( $i=1$ )th predicted result of simulating the outcome of a first ( $i=1$ )th one of the events, and, (jj) for each of the plurality of events from a second ( $i=2$ )th event to an nth ( $i=n$ ) event, an ith predicted result of simulating the outcome of an ith event accumulated with the ( $i-1$ )th result, wherein the ( $i-1$ )th result simulates the outcome of an ( $i-1$ )th event accumulated with any ( $i-2$ )th result, if any ( $i-2$ )th result exists;

(c) permitting the player to select one of the predicted results from among the predicted first through nth results indicated by the machine;

(d) indicating by the machine that an account is credited for the player with predicted winnings according to the player-selected predicted result;

(e) permitting the player to utilize the predicted winnings in exchange for determining actual outcomes of at least some of the events and adjusting an amount in the account based on the actual outcomes; and

(f) after the actual outcomes of a minimum number of the events have been determined, permitting the player to retain the adjusted amount in the account as actual winnings.